GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1574
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Environmental Clearance for Mines
Sahu Shri Chandu Lal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of small mines that do not have adequate environmental clearances in the country, State-wise especially in Chhattisgarh;
(b) whether the Government has taken any action in this regard and if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;
(c) whether the Government has relaxed norms of environment clearances for the same and if so, the details thereof;
(d) the mechanism adopted by the Government to expedite the environmental clearance process; and
(e) the details of the mines that have been shut down for violating rules set down by the ministry and causing grave harm to environment during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(a)&(b) As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, as amended till date, all the mines irrespective of their size and nature of mineral viz. major and minor operating in the country are required to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC), including the State of Chhattisgarh. The mines operating without EC are considered as a case of illegal mining and the State Governments are authorized under Section 23(C) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended in 1999, to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals in their respective states.

(c) The Government has decentralized the process of grant of EC to minor mineral leases with a view to expedite the appraisal of projects and promote sustainable mining vide notification dated 15.01.2016, and further delegated the authority of grant of EC to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) at the State or Union territory level in respect of mine leases covered under clusters of area more than or equal to 25 Hectares with individual lease size less than 50 Hectares. The District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (DEIAA) at the District level is delegated to grant EC in respect of individual mine lease of less than 5 Hectares and mine leases covered under clusters of area (i) up to 5 Hectares, and (ii) more than 5 Hectares and less than or equal to 25 Hectares with individual lease size less than 5 Hectares.

(d) The processing of applications for seeking Terms of Reference (TORs) and Environment Clearance (EC) has been made online to expedite the environmental clearance process, reduce delays and bring transparency.

(e) The Ministry has identified 53 mining projects as violation cases under the ambit of notification S.O.804(E) dated 14.03.2017. The State-wise list is as below:

State	Identified Mining Violation Projects
Andhra Pradesh	8
Bihar	2
Chhattisgarh	2
Gujarat	13
Himachal Pradesh	3
Jammu and Kashmir	1
Jharkhand	2
Karnataka	3
Maharashtra	3
Rajasthan	7
Tamil Nadu	6
Telangana	2
Uttarakhand	1
West Bengal	2
Total	53

State or State Pollution Control Board are required to take action against the Project under the provisions of section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and not to issue consent to operate or occupancy certificate till the project is granted the EC.

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